

HOMECOMING EDITION

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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MBA Wins Sixth Straight, Now Leads Division

by CLAY COOPER
Sports Editor, Wide Receiver

The Big Red football team wants you to know that Friday's game against McCallie wasn't as close as the score would indicate. The final, which was 29-16, should have been more to the tune of 36 or 43 to 3, most players would tell you.

You might ask why the score is so important to the players. The answer is understandable: many touted the MBA/McCallie match-up as the game that would determine which school in Division II has the team to beat in 2004. Players and coaches of division opponents undoubtedly checked the score of our game soon after the conclusion of their own to see which team outplayed the other, and by what margin. A more decisive victory over a formidable McCallie team would serve as an effective intimidation factor in MBA's remaining games against Christian Brothers, Memphis University School, and Brentwood Academy, who lost to McCallie 17-7 in week four.

General sentiment, however, was very positive after the victory. Through its strong showing on McCallie's Spears Field the Big Red also proved to themselves that the team is capable of making a successful bid for the Clinch Bowl championship this season.

From the kickoff the Big Red looked confident, driving down the field on offense and adjusting well to McCallie's great athleticism on defense. The first-half drives were long for both teams and only one resulted in a touchdown, coming in the sec-

the first half and excited about the second.

On the second play from scrimmage in the second half, however, Howe's pass was tipped and intercepted by a McCallie corner. With the score at 10-3 and with McCallie barely outside of field goal range,

happy to tell you that the MBA defense came through once again. Holding McCallie to about eight yards on three plays, the defense prevented a first down and forced a long field goal attempt, which was missed.

The ensuing drive for MBA resulted in a Hahnfeldt field goal, increasing the lead to ten points. After a kickoff and a failed drive from McCallie, receiver/cornerback/kick returner Chambliss Shillinglaw returned a punt 79 yards for a touchdown, making the score 20-3.

After another kickoff and failed drive from McCallie, the Blue Tornado coaching staff decided to avoid Chambliss and just "accidentally" snap the ball out of the end zone, resulting in a safety.

Following a blocked Hahnfeldt punt, however, McCallie was able to find the end zone for a fourth quarter touchdown, but from that moment on thirteen points down would be the closest they came. Andy Snyder sealed the game with a seven-yard touchdown run and McCallie scored a touchdown in the final minute to pull back to 29-16.

Andy Snyder led the Red in rushing and receiving, with 88 and 50 yards respectively, and his two rushing touchdowns killed McCallie's hopes of mounting a comeback.

Continued on p.2



David Howe hands off to Andy Snyder (40). Andy's 138 yds from scrimmage helped MBA beat McCallie

ond quarter for MBA. The Big Red returned to the extremely spacious and air-conditioned locker room for halftime, pleased with

it appeared as if the Big Red had given its opponent a great chance to tie the game or at least cut the deficit to four. However, I am

Students Outraged by Earlier Starting Time

by CHAMBLISS SHILLINGLAW
Staff Writer

It was at registration for the 2004-2005 school year when MBA students learned about a change in schedule that was going to take place every morning. For some reason, we now have to meet with our advisors at 7:50 AM. When I asked why to certain teachers, I got answers such as "it is to build a closer relationship with your advisor and advisory" or other similar answers. Honestly, there has to be another answer for why the school made this sudden awful change. When this change was made, it was probably thought that 10 minutes is not a big deal, but there are so many reasons why this change is a bad idea. I have heard students complain that getting to school 10 minutes earlier is harder than it seems. Some have to leave 30 minutes earlier to make it on time because of the traffic patterns. There are students complaining that the advisory meetings are an inconvenience because of the location. Instead of going directly to first period and preparing for the first day, we have to walk to our advisory and get read the announcements, which are on our email and on the TV's across campus.

I agree with all of these complaints, but the main complaint is that these meetings interfere with the help sessions in the morning. For some students there is not any other time a student can meet with teachers because of schedule problems and after-school activities. Why would the school take away this time for their students? I thought that it was important for the students to be learning, but I guess the announcements are more important now. I have heard that the teachers could be asked to come earlier, but I already have to lift some mornings and don't have time to get there earlier. I used every morning last year to get help in Latin class, and I know I would not have done as well if I hadn't had that time, so why does MBA want its students to struggle academically? After complaining

about the meeting every morning, I finally got a petition going and within a day I got over 100 signatures against the meetings. I now have about 270 signatures. You know something is wrong when almost 2/3 of the high school has signed a petition to get something changed. Many teachers have wanted to sign, but don't want to get "a talking to," so they just cheer my cause on. There seems to be no logical reason to make students go to these meetings, and so therefore let's get rid of this meeting every morning. If there are students out there who have not signed the petition and want to, just find me on campus. Don't be afraid to voice your opinion.

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Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to its office, the Faculty Advisors, the Editors, or sent to bellringer@mc.montgomerybell.com (simply type 'Bell Ringer' into First Class). These letters must be signed; The Bell Ringer neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

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Football Beats McCallie

Continued from p. 1

David Howe completed 11 of 16 passes for 137 yards with only his third quarter interception. His continued improvement has played a large part in the Big Red's strong performances of late.

MBA was penalized 12 times for 125 yards over the course of the game, which is a less than pleasing number for the coaching staff (players are often reminded that they lead the league in penalties). For the Big Red to handle its post-season opponents, which look to include the likes of McCallie, Christian Brothers, Baylor or BA, they will have to become more disciplined on the game field.

The upcoming homecoming game against Christian Brothers High School out of Memphis looks to be another challenge for the Big Red. The team from CBHS takes seriously its games against MBA, and for a victory our team must do the same with them. Look for a balanced offensive attack from MBA and expect David Howe to shine; more importantly, be in the stands Friday when MBA plays for a chance at a perfect divisional record in 2004.

MBA Football Season Stats

Pressing

David Howe: 57-110, 738 yds, 4 TDs, 5 INTs, 111.08 Rating
Scott Hearon: 4-10, 43 yds, 1 INT

Rushing

McGavock Johnson: 70 rushes, 578 yds, 1 TD, 5.4 yd average
Andy Snyder: 60 rushes, 302 yds, 4 TDs, 5.0 yd average
Jay Pilkerton: 43 rushes, 247 yds, 5 TDs, 5.7 yd average
Jim Beckner: 27 rushes, 213 yds, 2 TDs, 7.9 yd average
Caldwell Tanner: 12 rushes, 68 yds, 5.7 yd average
Matt Bubis: 3 rushes, 27 yds, 9.0 yd average

Receiving

Brian Harris: 13 receptions, 225 yds, 1 TD, 17.3 yd average
Paul Knoll: 11 reception, 128 yds, 3 TDs, 11.6 yd average
Drew Camey: 9 receptions, 115 yds, 12.8 yd average
Jay Pilkerton: 8 receptions, 80 yds, 10.0 yd average
Andy Snyder: 7 receptions, 71 yds, 10.1 yd average
Clay Cooper: 4 receptions, 57 yds, 14.2 yd average
William Benson: 3 receptions, 44 yds, 14.7 yd average
Preston Adams: 3 receptions, 27 yds, 9.0 yd average
Chambliss Shillinglaw: 2 receptions, 31 yds, 15.5 yd average

Kick Returns

Chambliss Shillinglaw: 8 returns, 299 yds, 1 TD, 36.1 yd average

Punt Returns

Chambliss Shillinglaw: 11 returns, 212 yds, 2 TDs, 19.3 yd avg

Defense

Mitchell Williams: 3 INTs, 36 yds
Chad Hume: 2 INTs, 26 yds

Kicking

Bryant Hahnfeldt: FGs: 10-11 PATs: 17-18

News Brief

National Merit Results

MBA is proud to announce that 12 members of the senior class were recently named semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Competition. With twice as many semifinalists as any other Nashville area school, MBA continues its tradition of preparing Gentlemen, Scholars, and Athletes by providing a classical education for the 21st Century. The semifinalists were: Andy Alsentzer, Brock Baker, Hunter Branstetter, Matthew Christie, Will Colton, Clay Cooper, Taylor Gould, Richard Greathouse, Paul Hendrick, Chad Hume, Curtis Lane, and Brian Syverud.

MBA is pleased to report that the following 25 seniors have been named Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Program: Preston Adams, Rob Beasley, Forbes Belk, Matthew Cate, Matthew Clair, Cotton Clark, Paul Crook, Jed Crumbo, Will DeLoache, Matthew Doster, Chris Gioia, Jonathan Gotterer, James Hollis, Davis Martin, Ravi Mishra, Ben Norton, Andrew Pitman, Jonathan Ray, Tripp Rebrovick, Barton Sanders, Pierce Sandwith, Will Smith, Grant Thomas, Scott Vaughn, and Jon Waldo. Also, Matthew Clair has been named a Semifinalist in the National Achievement Scholarship Program for talented Black American high school students.

MBA Hosts Debate

On Monday, October 4th, MBA hosted a special debate sponsored by the National Forensics League. Media mogul and businessman Ted Turner was in attendance to mark the kickoff of the "Ted Turner Public Forum Debates." The new debate format features several rounds of arguments followed by a "crossfire" session of questioning by opposing sides.

National Debate qualifiers, seniors Tripp Rebrovick and Jonathan Ray challenged two debaters from Overton High School. The pairs argued the subject of whether signing international treaties benefits the United States. Both sides presented well crafted arguments and treated the crowd of more than 100 to an entertaining debate.

INTERESTED IN WRITING FOR THE BELL RINGER?



MEETING NEXT MONDAY, OCTOBER 11th DURING BREAK IN
THE BASEMENT OF THE BALL BUILDING
THERE WILL BE DOUGHNUTS

Five Weeks at The Southport School, Australia

by JOSH SUMISLAWSKI
Staff Writer

As I stepped off the airplane from America, five weeks seemed like the longest time in the world to me, and in truth, I had every reason to be intimidated by that amount of time. After all, I was standing there knowing probably no more than three things about the country of Australia: it has a beautiful little city that once hosted the Olympic Games, it has kangaroos running wild throughout the land, and for the next thirty-five days, it was my home. Southport, or even the Gold Coast for that matter, had absolutely no place in my vocabulary. I was just a little ignorant foreigner, excited about being in another country yet at the same time frightened by what Australia would be like. But after spending five weeks at The Southport School as an exchange student, my ideas of Australia, whether correct or incorrect, have certainly changed, and the adventure as a whole has definitely stamped out the ignorance of those first days there.

Having for the most part never left my comfortable suburban lifestyle in Brentwood, I was shocked just by the twenty-hour flight, but within a few hours of arriving, I was already sitting in a classroom at TSS and trying to adjust to such a change in lifestyle. And of course, I made all the rookie mistakes. On the first day, I was yelled at for wearing flip-flops to lunch and later that night continued the pattern of mistakes by not only showing up late for dinner but also sitting at the wrong table. But, remember, the primary purpose of the exchange is to be a learning experience, and it did not take me long to discover the ways of the land.

Although I hate politics, one of the most enlightening experiences of the exchange was my discovery of how involved the Australians were in the controversies over our American president, Mr. George W.

Bush. In fact, arriving in the land down under, I had no clue as to who John Howard was, not to mention that he and W were good buddies and that Howard had committed troops to the war in Iraq. The Aussies were quick to make me aware of the fact that Australians were allies with the Americans and later invited me to see *Fahrenheit 9/11* with one of the Year-11 Political Studies classes. A couple hours and a few bags of popcorn later, I found myself also being invited to the class the following week for a little discussion. Obviously I was quick to take up that offer. After all, who does not enjoy getting to miss math to be a guest lecturer for another class? The discussion we had went well, with the students constantly asking me questions, and it was the first time that I felt that I was teaching some-

one else something, instead of having to be taught by someone else. I had the opportunity to share my opinions about the movie, shedding some light on the accuracies and inaccuracies as I saw them from my point of view as an American. For once, I was being useful, instead of just another exchange student who had come to TSS to relax for a term.

During my five weeks in this country, I had countless experiences that allowed me to learn more about Australia. Although I was stuck along the Gold Coast, I still managed to see the Outback. In fact, the Outback actually came to me at the EKKA—just think of it as the Tennessee State Fair but in Australia—in Brisbane. As I had done with the Political Studies class, I invited myself along with the Year-12 Agricultural Studies class

to the expo, just to get a taste of life out West. The highlight of the excursion: getting a sore throat and a runny nose the next day after catching a few diseases from the cattle.

In addition, I discovered that you can get sun-burned during the winter. As everyone along the coast knows, the beaches here are the best in the world, and I did not come half-way across the world to miss them just because the water was a little cold. So on the Sunday before I left, I journeyed to Main Beach with one of the other guys from my house and spent a few hours swimming in the ice-cold water, trying to surf on wimpy little waves, and just enjoying the sand and the surf. I had a blast that morning, but later that afternoon I became, as one of the resident masters in my house called me, a lobster. My mind was bogged, for I have never even suspected that getting a tan, let alone a sun-burn, was possible in the peak of winter.

Despite my fears as I first arrived in Australia on that cool July morning, I think that it is safe to say that I have learned more about this country and the little ironies of life—a little more exciting than just learning how to integrate functions in math class. Toward the end of my stay, I realized that those five weeks had flown by faster than I could have noticed. And in truth, I really did not want to go home at all. I had fallen in love with TSS and all of the friends I made there in just a few weeks, and the thought of having to leave was frightening. The five weeks I spent in Australia were without question the best five weeks of my life, leaving me with some of the best memories I have. I cannot begin to imagine what life would have been like had I not taken that step off the airplane and come there.

If any juniors are interested in participating in the exchange program or even going to TSS, please feel free to talk with Mrs. Warner or me.



Photo opportunities like this one should make everyone want to go to Australia

MBA Welcomes Its Newest Addition, Byron

by DAVID WHEELER
Assistant News Editor

Some of you may have noticed a new addition to the Montgomery Bell campus in the past couple of weeks. The new four-footed mascot named Byron made his debut at the pep rally before the Baylor game.

Who is this dog, you ask? Byron was born on January 3, 2002, in Clifton, Tennessee. He is an Irish setter and has a brother and two sisters. He was born in the O'Bon Kennel to breeders Paulette and Victor Borchardt. He is a registered champion who came to MBA after his retirement from shows. The Irish Setter has been the traditional breed of dog for the Big Red since the 1960's when an Irish Setter appeared on a t-shirt issued by the athletic department. Since then, there has been an on-and-off interest in trying to obtain a permanent mascot for the school.

How did we obtain this dog? Steve Zager, MBA class of 1976, was the driving force behind bringing Byron to MBA. He seized on the idea and proceeded to make phone calls around the region in search of the right dog. With a little luck, he found

Byron after contacting Paulette and Victor Borchardt at O'Bon Kennel. The gracious company offered to donate the dog to MBA and agreed to use his offspring for future generations of Big Red dogs.

What will Byron add to the MBA experience? Many ideas have been tossed around, including possible involvement at pep rallies and general involvement on campus. Although very mild-mannered and even polite at times, Byron is not a trick dog by any means. However, in the future Byron may be taught some tricks, such as fetching the kicking tee during football games. Currently, he resides in the alumni office on the top floor of Ball. Anyone is welcome to come up during lunch or study hall to visit Byron. Don't be surprised if you see him being led around campus by Scott O'Neal, who is currently taking care of Byron. In the words of Mr. O'Neal, "Byron is a very sweet, mild-mannered dog. He really likes people but has not been around many except in the show arena. He loves other dogs, having lived with about 25 others. If we turned him loose on campus, we would decimate the squirrel population." So, if you happen to see a big, furry, four-footed creature on campus, stop and say hello.



Sophomores (l to r) Will Freeman, John-Michael Simpson, and Brian Hughes with Byron

Fiction Serial

Messengers of Beckoning

Season II, Part I

by **CHRIS PICKENS**
Staff Writer

Rain falls steadily in a primeval forest. A stone bridge over a deep, swift river looks upstream to an abandoned mill, where a lonely beggar scrounges in the dirt...

The beggar raked his hands through the runny mud at the edge of the river, the years of age, grime, and sin etched on his face. He could have sworn that he just had that copper piece in his hand. If he lost it...he clenched his bony hands in fury. After all that effort, strangling the stable boy, then escaping the Sheriff, what a waste it would be. All he had wanted to do was come out for a drink of water. He should have left the coin inside. But it might get stolen, said his instinct. So he took it outside. And now he had lost it.

Rain pattered slowly on the great green river, which continued to push the huge wheel of the mill around and around, although it was no longer used. Apart from that, the river was pinched in from all sides by a massive, thick expanse of green. Furthermore, it was such a perfect place to hide, the beggar decided, because of the loud creaking and generally perilous appearance to the old support struts under the building. But the beggar knew it was perfectly safe. The only way it could even be seen at all from the road was the stone bridge that crossed the river about three hundred yards downstream. And in this rain, why would anyone bother to be out?

With a triumphant laugh, the beggar felt his fingers wrap around a small circular object. After gleefully rinsing it in the river, he pulled it up to his sunken eyes, grinning. Now he could finally get some bread, then make his way back to Nottingham, where he started his journey. All thanks to this little piece of metal. So insignificant. If he held it just so, it looked like it could sit on that bridge. The only way he could be seen. He chuckled. That is when he saw them.

The coin itself blocked most of the flash, but he still felt the gigantic pull towards the bridge, and a low rumble that seemed to come from the earth; it was not really a sound as much as a pulse that bumped against his eardrum, whipping his muddy clothes about in front of him. Although he did not notice, the rain suddenly slanted sideways for a moment, and the limbs of the willows reached in longing for a point at the center of the bridge. Then there was the flash, a great, white, shattering mirror that he had blocked unintentionally with his coin. It whipped overhead, over the trees in a bulb of energy, before vanishing as soon as it could be implanted in the memory. Then all was as it was before the disturbance.

The beggar stared, panting. He could not see any movement on the bridge from where he was, but the rain made it harder

to tell. For a full minute, he just stared, his hands clenched on his brown robes. Then he heard the splashing.

Under the bridge, not on it, were several flailing limbs and a pair of heads. There were no cries issuing from the mouths, but they were clearly in danger. The beggar knew that the shoals were just ahead, and a much harder current would make escape impossible. Although he did not know why, the beggar was drawn, curious and afraid. He debated with himself for a moment, grinding what teeth he had left. But curiosity got the better of him, and he rose to his feet.

When he had wormed his way to the bridge, he glanced along the long dirt road, listening for hoof-beats. The road, distorted by the rain as it rounded the bend, was empty. Down at the water's edge, he saw two people wallowing towards the shore. One was a tall man in a black cloak...or what the beggar thought was a cloak. He wore some kind of mask over his eyes like a blind man, and carried a staff in the other. He looked weak. This might be easy, thought the beggar.

The other was a young man, perhaps eighteen years old. He wore a sort of red tunic thing, but it was open in the front, with buttons down the open split like a lady's dress. And it was turned down oddly at the neck. The beggar stared suspiciously at his garish blue britches, which looked stiff and uncomfortable. The beggar thought he could hear a great swish every time the youth took a step, but maybe it was just the rushing water. But the youth did look powerful, and the beggar was worried about the plan that had been forming in his mind.

The two helped each other, but looked as though they were unaccustomed to it. The tall man in black gave the youth a cuff on the shoulder as they stomped onto shore, whispering something to him. The youth looked up, right at the beggar. The youth's eyes burned.

The beggar stepped towards them, putting on his sweetest face. "Are you men all right? 'Twas quite a fall you took over yon bridge." The beggar tried to look as if he had not seen the huge flash of light but only their struggles in the water.

"We made it out alive." The youth had an odd accent, and a funny way of choosing his words.

"We could use a place to dry ourselves," said the man in black. He too had a different way of speaking, but his was closer in familiarity to the beggar's. "Do you know of any place to get some dry clothes, perhaps a fire?"

"Right this way, sirs, right this way," said the beggar. Sometimes even he was amazed by his own cunning. "I got a small fire. 'Tis humble, to be sure, but will warm a body back to health."

"Thank you," said the man in black, bowing slightly, "it would be most welcome." The youth stared.

As the threesome stomped back to the mill, with the beggar turning every now and then to smile helpfully back at the two, the rain began to let up, but it was getting



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darker, and the night would soon be fully upon them. The beggar would have to work quickly.

The mill was just as he had left it. He held the door for the two, smiling as they passed. Inside, the small fire he had been burning was out. While he bent to rekindle it, he asked, in feigned nonchalance, "If I could, sirs, how was it that you found yourselves in the river?"

The two men, who had been peering at the huge rotating mill shaft in the middle of the room, stopped to speak. The man in black darted a look at the youth before saying, "Our cart hit the side of the bridge. We were thrown in."

The beggar did not believe him, but was willing to appear appeased. "Of course, those can be tricky, if I do say so."

The beggar told them to place their clothes close to the fire, as they threw on some old tunics that the beggar had found in the mill house. In relative silence the three sat, chewing on the last of the dried fish that the beggar had stolen not two days ago. The youth and the man in black said very little.

When it was time to retire, the man in black sat up against the wall, the youth on the floor near the door. It was so easy, thought the beggar. So easy to kill them and take whatever valuables they possessed. He just had to wait.

The fire died away. The youth was breathing heavily, and the man in black had his head on his chest. It was time.

The beggar grinned as he slipped to the man in black, his hand behind his back, the rusted dagger clenched tightly in his claw-like fingers. It was almost a shame it was this easy. Almost.

He raised the dagger over the man's chest, his own heart racing. "Goodbye," the beggar whispered.

But he was wrong. In a blink of movement, the man in black had drawn his crossed arms apart, pushing the beggar back. Briefly, so briefly that it could hardly be possible to register, the beggar could see that the eyes behind the odd eye-masks were wide open. But what he noticed, too, was the two steel rods in his hands. Twin fires leapt from their tips, and the beggar hit the floor.

Congratulations to MBA's Scholarship Nominees

Brock Baker - Morehead Scholarship

Will Deloache - Jefferson Scholarship



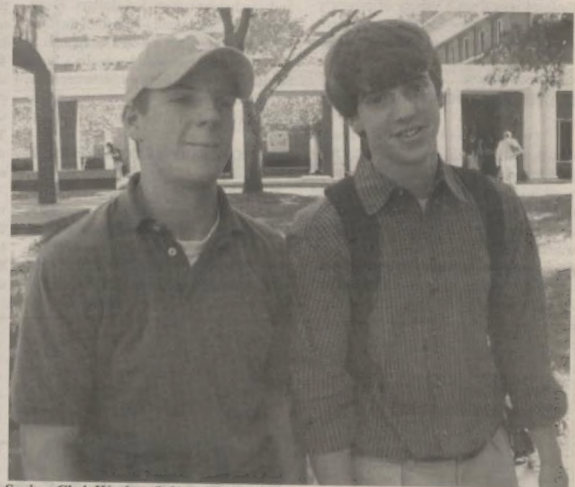
"If I Had A Million Dollars".....is a song by the Barenaked Ladies
(from left to right: Seniors Liz Anderson, Charlie Boyd, and Cameron Sweeting)



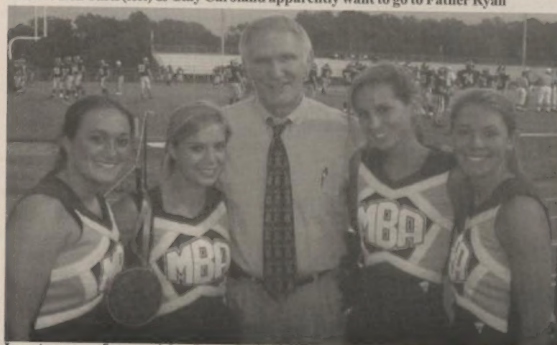
"Not If You Were the Last Man On Earth".....is unfortunately not a song (l to r: Jamie Gordon, Susan Barcus, Kate Steele, Lane Denson, Lindsay Jacques, Olivia Patterson)



Seniors Ben Turk (left) & Clay Caroland apparently want to go to Father Ryan



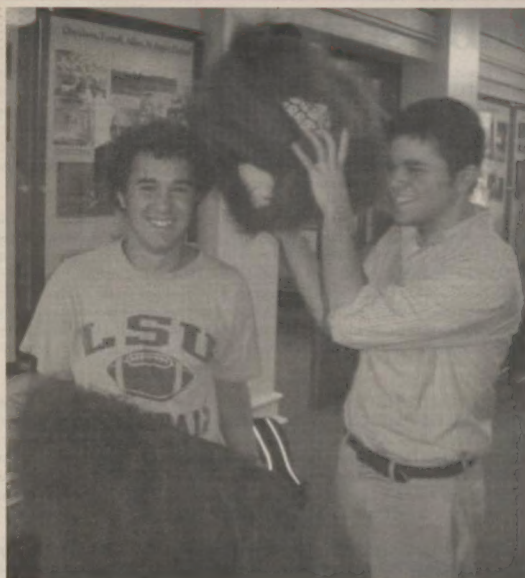
Seniors Chris Woolsey (left) and Dean McKenzie walk through the quad



I wrote a poem for you girls....(l to r: Cacky Tate, Lizzie Braswell, Mr. Tillman, Anna Gernert, Katherine Wood)



(from l to r): Jillian Peterson, Olivia Patterson, Natalie Crafton, Melissa Woods pose with Byron.....This picture is in here solely because of Byron



Matt Eskind (right) helps Stephen Wieck get into the Big Red Dog costume.



(l to r) Cacky Tate, Derek Pendergrass, Lizzie Braswell, Chase Altenbern, Anna Gerner



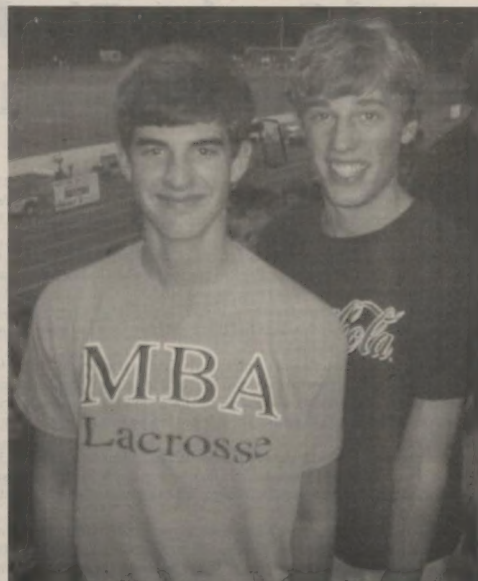
The golf team after winning the Region Tournament. (back row l to r: Coach Kelly, Rob Campbell, Steven Dahl, Mac Keith, Mr Gioia. front row l to r: Dylan Burroughs, Jeff Newman, Trey Kendall, Jordan Keckley)



Junior Jeff Newman (center), is really excited about being in a picture with Michael Crum (left) and Davey Douglas.



Rich Tompkins (21), Will Hackett (5), McGavock Johnson (42), Andrew Warfield (28) and Mitchell Williams (27) after MBA's 16-7 victory over Baylor.



Freshmen Austin Branstetter (left) and Sloan Sanders. Friendship piles await.

Christopher Woolsey's Unbiased SEC Review

by CHRIS WOOLSEY
Staff Writer

Through the first four weekends of the college football season, the Southeastern Conference has looked to be the strongest in the country. The unexpected depth of the conference has allowed for many exciting games so far. Young players are stepping up all over, with key veterans leading the charge. If the start to this season is any indication, then SEC fans are truly in for some thrilling moments over the next couple of months. Here is a ranking of each team in the conference, and a rundown of how their season is going.

1. Georgia: Fans are already making plans for a trip to Atlanta. No team has been more impressive in one game than Georgia was against LSU. The Bulldogs are strong at every position. The pre-season injury to Kregg Lumpkin was a huge set-back, but true freshman Danny Ware has looked good thus far. David Greene might be the best QB in the league and WR Fred Gibson along with Reggie Brown compliment Greene well. Typically, Georgia has played down to their competition, never showing too much against weaker teams. South Carolina was a good test, but Georgia was able to overcome a 2nd-half deficit in Columbia for the victory. The defense is obviously strong. DE David Pollack and LB Odell Thurman are a couple of the best in the league. A home game against rival Tennessee could be danger, and Florida is always trouble, but a journey to the Plains in Auburn might be the SEC game of the year. Nevertheless, this team looks poised for a run for the SEC crown.

2. Auburn: Without the preseason hype this year, Auburn might be the most impressive team thus far. The win over the defending national champion LSU Tigers proved to many that this team is for real. The 24-point drubbing of Tennessee proved to all this team is the best in the west. The duo of Cadillac Williams and Ronnie Brown is the best tailback tandem in the country. Senior Jason Campbell has been scrutinized for his whole career but has played well this season. The defense held LSU to under 10 points and has not allowed a team to score over 14 points in a game. Their biggest test will be a home match-up against UGA. The Iron Bowl vs. Alabama is always a tight contest. Like Georgia, Atlanta is very much in the grasp of the Tigers.

3. Tennessee: Without a doubt the biggest shock for this team is the play of the Erik Ainge and Brent Schaeffer. Not only had neither taken a snap in a college game, but neither had taken a college class before this year either. A huge early season win for Tennessee over Florida had UT fans excited about this season, but the embarrassing loss to Auburn on Ole Rocky Top has many wondering if this team is really as good as once thought. What surprises most onlookers is that Tennessee's offense is better than their defense. Young players are all over the field for Tennessee. For Tennessee to get to Atlanta, they will have to go to Athens and beat Georgia, something they have not done in the last 4 tries. With Kevin Simon done for the year, and the secondary looking very suspect, some players are going to have to step up if this team can get where they want to be. Also, at some point, Coach Phil Fulmer must make a decision on which QB will be "the guy." The current system will, at some point, divide the team.

Big Red Crushes Rival Father Ryan, 36-6

by JUSTIN HALL
Assistant Sports Editor

When reminiscing about that wonderful Thursday evening of September 23rd, 2004, one word comes to mind: domination. On a spectacular Thursday evening, MBA fans marched en masse to see the Big Red steamroll home team (read: visitors) Father Ryan, 36-6. In all aspects of the game, it was a massacre.

Quarterback David Howe was on target, completing 7 of 12 attempts, two for Touchdowns, and a total 155 passing yards. Big Red running men McGavock Johnson and Andy Snyder also dominated the rushing game, leading MBA to 217 rush yards and two touchdowns vs. Father Ryan's -25 yards rushing. Bryant Hahnfeldt had a very successful game; including 3 field goals and 3 P.A.T.s. Chad Hume and Chris Geer had interceptions, as well as Gray Carter forcing a fumble.

The game started off a little slow, with an early field goal kicked by Hahnfeldt. MBA held the 3-point lead for almost the entire first half, until in the last four minutes Andy Snyder ran in a 6-yard touchdown, followed quickly by Howe's touchdown passes to Brian Harris (42 yards) and Paul Knoll (35 yards). The Big Red headed into the locker room at halftime with a hefty 24-0 lead.

In the third quarter, Hahnfeldt kicked two more field goals, knocking the lead to 30-0. The Irish finally scored with a 74-yard pass from their backup quarterback, Sean Vinet, because their first stringer, Corey Stewart, had been rocked on a fantastic hit by Matt Bubis and did not play the rest of the game.

In the fourth quarter, McGavock Johnson ran one in from 48 yards out for a final touchdown, making the score a final 36-6. It seems that on September 23rd, the MBA Big Red took the fight right out of the Fightin' Irish of Father Ryan, humiliating them in what was supposed to be a Father Ryan "home game." This win also secured MBA a spot in the playoffs, making it crucial for the post-season. Congrats to all the players involved in such a landslide victory.

4. Florida: It seems funny that a bad call keeps this team from the top of the list. Chris Leak looks like one of the best quarterbacks in the conference. The deep group of receivers along with tailbacks Ciatrick Fason and Deshaun Wynn make this offense the best in the league. An early season loss to Tennessee can easily be overcome by a win over Georgia. A home game against LSU will be a good match-up. A young defense holds this team back. Being a young team, however, they should only improve as the year goes on. Hopefully, freshman manager Andrew Mills can step up and lead this team to Atlanta.

5. South Carolina: If they could have held on to a 4th quarter lead against Georgia in Columbia, then they would definitely be a top SEC team. Seven different players have over 10 carries through 5 games this season. Receiver Troy Williamson leads the conference with 545 yards receiving and also has 4 touchdowns. The duo of Dondrial Pinkins and Slyville Newton at QB causes havoc for defenses. USC is strong on the defensive front and should be tough for any team they face. A home game against Tennessee is definitely winnable, and a trip to the Swamp could be a tight one. It is hard to tell if they can actually be a contender for the east title, but thus far they have looked as strong as other contenders.

6. Arkansas: They always seem to do more with less than any other team in the conference. The Razorbacks lost every offensive starter except for quarterback Matt Jones. His play has propelled Arkansas to where they are. He is their leading passer and rusher. Decorri Birmingham has arrived as a fantastic running back. A close game at home against Texas and a victory over Alabama proved that this team can compete with anyone. A near comeback in the Swamp keeps this team from a perfect league record. A trip to Auburn should slow them down, but they tend to surprise many each year.

7. LSU: No team has been more disappointing this year in the SEC than the defending champs. Their strength looked to be their defense, but Georgia made them appear like a bad high school team. A huge weakness is the play of their quarterbacks. Marcus Randall and JaMarcus Russell have yet to impress. Auburn showed their offensive weakness, and Georgia showed their defensive weakness. Improvements must be made in Death Valley or trips to Florida and Arkansas will be trouble. If not for 3 missed PATs by Oregon State, LSU would have a losing record. A strong backfield lead by Justin Vincent could spark a turnaround.

8. Alabama: The injury to Quarterback Brodie Croyle was huge for Alabama. Miami transfer Mark Guillon must step up for this team. Ray Hudson and Kenneth Darby have provided a nice surprise for the Bama backfield. The starting units on both sides of the ball are strong, but depth is a problem. This fact could hurt the Tide as the season progresses. Three of the last four games are trips to Knoxville and Baton Rouge and the annual Iron Bowl vs. Auburn.

Continued on p. 9

The Bell Ringer would like to congratulate the MBA golf team on its success

Season Record: 8-3
(Beat FRHS & BA)
1st Place in Region
5th Place in State

Region Tournament Results
1st-Rob Campbell (72)
2nd-Dylan Burroughs (75)
4th-Trey Kendall (77)
5th-Jordan Keckley (79)
6th-Jeff Newman (80)

Freshman Football Update

by MATTHEW KIMBALL
Staff Writer

The freshman football team is pressing forward into their season with a record of 2-2 thus far. They topped Father Ryan 2-0 and Gallatin 23-8 while suffering disappointing losses to Ravenwood and Pearl Cohn JV teams. Of the season so far, quarterback Austin Bennett says, "Our biggest game was Father Ryan. It was in the

middle of the hurricane—raining and windy, but we won 2-0, a sweet victory."

The team captains are Jay Cole, Nathan Wade, Ben Bartholomew, and Austin Bennett, who has been splitting time with Zac Cordell at quarterback. The season has brought several minor injuries for the two quarterbacks and to compensate they have been alternating to allow each player to recover. Upcoming big games include Riverdale and Goodpasture.

Woolsey's SEC Review

From p. 8

9. Ole Miss: From this point on the list down, the teams are just plain bad. Any order would suffice for these teams. Ole Miss gets the nod as the only bottom feeder with two wins. The post-Eli days have Ole Miss fans crying for coach Cutcliff's job. Neither Michael Spurlock nor David Lipscomb's Ethan Flatt have impressed at all. They are not near the team they were last year. Look for redshirt freshman quarterback Robert Lane to play at some point.

10. Vanderbilt: Early season expectations by many had Vandy starting 5-0 and possibly making a bowl. It looks as though things have not changed, though, on West End. A win over the hapless Mississippi State Bulldogs is the reason for any hope. QB Jay Cutler and LB Moses Osemwegie could play for any other team in the conference. The problem is that they are the only two with this distinction on the team. Vandy does have some chances for more wins. They host Rutgers and Eastern Kentucky and travel to Lexington to face Kentucky.

11. Kentucky: They have not shown much flash thus far. Quarterback Shane Boyd is OK but does not have much of a supporting cast. The score of the Florida game does not indicate how badly the Gators beat them. They did, however, score 51 points against Indiana. The Wildcats need to make improvements if they want to win some more games. The good thing, though: basketball season is just around the corner.

12. Mississippi State: New head coach Sylvester Croom was not dealt a good hand when he arrived in Starkville. The first African-American coach in the SEC hopes to improve the miserable Bulldog team. It does not help that they lost to IAA Maine. Their first game, a victory over Tulane, is the only reason they will not go winless this year. It will take time, but look for Coach Croom to turn the program around in the next few years.

Cross Country Off to a Solid Start

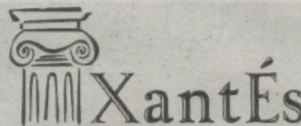
by PAUL HENDRICK
Staff Writer

At last, the many weeks of hard training have begun to pay off for the cross country team. In recent weeks, the team has competed in two of the most competitive meets in the state. On September 18, both varsity and JV competed in the Tennessee Classic, which our fearless leader, Coach Robert Pruitt, claims is "the largest athletic event, in terms of participation, held in Tennessee each year." The team, led by Brock Baker's time of 16:09, shunned the example of certain rival schools and chose to compete in the fiercely competitive large school division, placing a respectable 12th out of all competitors. More recently, both varsity

and JV competed last Saturday, the 25th, in the notoriously unpleasant AF Bridges meet. As in past years, the temperature reached into the 80's, but the JV team, led by senior Will Smith and with freshman Lindsay Bohannon also turning in an excellent performance, valiantly charged to a first place finish. "It was a difficult race," said Bohannon, "but I think we did very well." Unfortunately, the varsity team failed to break its 29-year losing streak at the meet, finishing in 6th place. Coach Pruitt added to the disappointment by refusing junior David Reynolds' demand to shave his beard. However, the future looks brighter as the team prepares for the series of district, city, and region championship meets which will decide the team's invitation to state. As the state championship approaches on November 6, the team looks forward to another impressive performance, and as usual, the team appreciates your continued support.



Senior Brock Baker (left) and junior David Reynolds prepare for the AF Bridges Meet



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Football Holds On to Beat Baylor in First Division Game

by CLAY COOPER
Sports Editor, Wide Receiver

In week four, your Big Red football team had a breakout performance against Chattanooga Baylor. The matchup of division II front runners was expected by most to be a close game, and many believed its outcome would show who had the upper hand in a bid for the Clinic Bowl championship.

The game, played at our Tommy Owen field, proved to be a challenge on both sides of the ball for the victorious Red. The final score was 16-7, but Baylor (2-1) was never out of contention. With a 13-7 lead in the third quarter, MBA was able to hold off Baylor's scoring drives and seal the game with a Bryant Hahnfeldt field goal that created a two-score differential.

Sophomore quarterback David Howe had a career performance, completing 13 of 25 passes for 157 yards without an interception. Drew Carney, Brian Harris, Paul Knoll, and Clay Cooper combined for 11 re-

ceptions and 137 yards throughout the game. With three field goals in four attempts and an extra point, Hahnfeldt led the Red in scoring once again, providing the offensive edge we needed to top Baylor.

With a total of 146 rushing yards, it was a balanced attack offensively for MBA. Andy Snyder led the team in rushing with 80 yards on 17 carries, supported by Jim Beckner's 30 yards on 3 carries with a touchdown. "I think we were able to show from the start that we would drive the ball and force Baylor to make some plays, and they didn't," says Beckner.

Baylor's lack of offense, however, was caused by a staunch Big Red defensive effort allowing Baylor into MBA territory rarely. "If we can perform like this every week," says senior defensive lineman Matt Babis, who also rushed twice for 22 yards, "we should hold strong against most teams."

MBA's next game came against rival Father Ryan, resulting in another victory in the division II so-called 'alphabet soup' race. MBA, undefeated in division play, holds the upper hand in the playoff standings.

If You're Happy and You Know It Clap Your Hands

by BROCK BAKER
News Editor

Brock Baker rambles about various on campus happenings...

I opened my email the other day, and, much to my surprise, I had well over forty new emails. Upon sifting through them I discovered that the vast majority contained fatuous, difficult-to-follow replies to some underclassman who had taken the burden upon himself to tell the school the real 'truth' about President Bush. Bush is not my favorite guy in the world either, but I can get my own dose of half-baked political quackery by reading any one of several online magazines, thank you very much. Please, please, if you feel as if you have something important to say and you just can't wait to share your bit of wisdom with the rest of the school who no doubt will be in awe of your wit, eloquence, and knowledge, please post it on Student Information where those of us who wish to may ignore it. Do not send me and the rest of the school any more of your emails. And everyone else, if for some reason you just HAVE to respond to one of these sophomoric (or even microbic) emails, use the 'reply to sender' function. I am no more interested in reading your witty response than I

am in reading the original email.

In other campus news, I've decided that our football team is simply too good this year. This year's senior class, having come up with such inspired genius as 'If

getting close. We fans need some closer games to keep it interesting, but congratulations to the football team on their success thus far.

I know it is somewhat of an annual

thing for seniors to gripe disproportionately for senior privileges, considering the considerable freedoms we do have, so by no means do I wish to appear spoiled or ungrateful because of what I am about to say. It is simply that it seems odd to me that a senior on Headmaster's List can sign out to go home or run an errand or do any number of things, but he cannot eat off-campus lunch while signed out for Headmaster's List. Our senior class has proven itself responsible

with its quad-cleaning duties and returning to class promptly on our two Friday off-campus lunches, and it seems that off-campus lunch should be a Headmaster's List privilege until we demonstrate that we are unworthy of holding it.

One thing about which I have been wondering is why we still have advisee meetings during break when we meet with our advisors every morning before school as well. One school official, when asked about this, commented that "there's not really enough time to get anything done in those ten minutes anyway," which to me seemed to be a pretty effective argument against the advisee session each morning. Regardless, there seems to be a large degree of misunderstanding and consequent discontent among the student body about this advisee session, and to rectify this problem I recommend an assembly or similar school meeting in which the administration clearly outlines to the students the purpose of this session. Students should then be able to ask questions and give suggestions regarding the advisor program.

For this meeting to be productive, it is very important that the administration goes into the meeting with as open a mind towards doing away with the before-school advisee session as the students do towards embracing it as a worthwhile way to improve their MBA experience. Only through mutual understanding and cooperation can we come to a solution in which both parties are satisfied, or, if not fully satisfied, at least understanding of the other side's point of view.

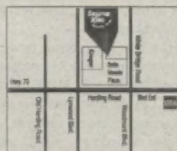


Seniors lead cheers during the football games, including 'If You're Happy and You Know It...'

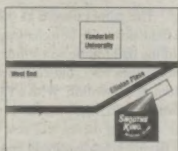
you're happy and you know it' and the ever-popular 'relinquish' cheer, is providing the best fan support of recent years, but it's really hard to get excited about cheering loudly when the team is up 24-0 at halftime and our third string is still keeping the game from

thing for seniors to gripe disproportionately for senior privileges, considering the considerable freedoms we do have, so by no means do I wish to appear spoiled or ungrateful because of what I am about to say. It is simply that it seems odd to me that a senior on Headmaster's List can sign out to go home or run an errand or do any number of things, but he cannot eat off-campus lunch while signed out for Headmaster's List. Our senior class has proven itself responsible

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Review of *Hot Mikado*

by ALEC MCGUFFEY
Staff Writer

This year's fall musical, *The Hot Mikado*, adapted from Gilbert and Sullivan's opera, *The Mikado*, delivered laughs, some great songs, and exceptional acting by a few of MBA and Harpeth Hall's finest. Not since *The Producers* have I heard such provocatively humorous names as Titipu, Yum-Yum, and Nanki-Poo. In case you didn't catch the plot on stage, here are the basics. Nanki-Poo runs away from his father's (the Mikado's) kingdom after being wrongfully engaged to the sinister Katisha. On the road as a traveling trumpet player, he meets Yum-Yum. There is a lot more to the story, but it

would take quite a while to explain all the details. From Ko-Ko, the Lord High Executioner, to the "three maids" and the "gentlemen of Japan," the characters all have their own, sometimes quirky, characteristics. One of my favorite aspects of the show was the film, which served as a sort of prologue for the entire musical. Not only did it successfully set up a back-story that could have taken hours to explain on stage, but it also gave the audience a first glimpse at Katisha's hilarious thirst for blood. From the colorful sets and costumes to the brilliantly-performed songs, *The Hot Mikado* is definitely one of the most vivacious MBA musical productions in recent years.

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Car of the Issue: Cotton Clark's '94 Explorer

by **CHRIS GIOIA**
Managing Editor

The Car of the Month, for this issue of the paper, has been awarded to everyone's favorite spirit leader, Cotton Clark. Not only excelling in leading us at pep rallies, Cotton drives a 1994 hunter green Ford Explorer ranking among the most unique vehicles in the senior lot. One of its most prominent features is the lack of a roof rack, which allows one to recognize this car as it overtakes you and proceeds to leave you in its dust. However, the car's features do not end at its incredible acceleration. Recently dubbed "the Green Turtle," obviously an antonym for this machine, by none other than Cotton himself, the car features a roaring in-line 4 cylinder engine. When asked about the modifications to the engine, Cotton declined to comment due to legality issues that might cause this car to be outlawed on the streets.

This car was passed down to Cotton for a very reasonable price from his uncle on his sixteenth birthday, and since then he has had one wreck (not caused by the writer of this article), and managed only two speeding tickets, a major accomplishment when

one considers the power under its hood. Several dents and scratch marks on the passenger side doors were on the car when Cotton received it from his uncle, and besides these blemishes, the car is nearly flawless. Also, if one looks closely, pink paint remains on the windows from Cotton's birthday, a subtle yet clever means of adding style to his ride.

The interior of the car features leather seats, ergonomically designed for comfort, style, and performance. The bargin' tape deck/radio combination stereo lets people know when Cotton pulls up on the scene. Other key interior features include trouble opening and closing the back left window, as well as the randomness with which the locks work, sometimes choosing to remain unlocked. As for the engine, since a recent change of transmission fluid, the needle of the gas gauge reads empty continuously and it requires 4000 RPM's to change gears, obviously a performance enhancement. Cotton's ability to remove the keys from the ignition with the engine running is one of his favorite secrets of the car. Next time you see this car drive past—that is, if it's not a blur—respect the vehicle as a work of art, and if it's on the side of the road, stop to help Cotton.



Rock and Roll is Here To Stay

by **KEVIN THOMAS**
Staff Writer

If you are looking for something to talk about with your parents, ask them about classic rock and roll. I think you will be surprised at how much they know about it. The reason why parents know so much about rock and roll is that they grew up with it.

My dad, for example, knows everything you would want to know about the Grateful Dead. He went to fifteen concerts in three years, traveling up and down the coast of California just to see them. One time, he was staying at his friend's house, whose dad was the attorney for the Grateful Dead, in San Francisco. He was sleeping on the couch, and he woke up to see Jerry Garcia smoking a cigarette and drinking a cup of coffee at the kitchen table. He thought he was dreaming, until he said "Hi, Jerry. I'm Tom." For those of you who do not know who Jerry Garcia is, he was the lead singer and guitarist of the Grateful Dead. This story gives me new-found respect for my dad.

One day, after I bought *The Doors: Legacy (The Absolute Best)* CD, my mom and I were listening to it in the car. We were listening to the classic song, "Light My Fire," and my mom explained a line in the song that goes, "Try now, we can only lose, and our love become a funeral pyre." She told me that a funeral pyre was where they would burn the dead bodies in India, and I had no

idea what that meant before my mom told me. This was an educational experience for me.

My dad has introduced me to amazing bands, such as The Who, Cream, The Clash, The Allman Brothers Band, The Cars, and many more. Had it not been for my dad, I would have never been exposed to these great bands, and I would have missed out on some great music. When I was debating on which CD to buy one day, I came across The Who and picked up their greatest hits CD. My dad studied the songs on it, and advised that I should get it. I bought it, and he was right. All the songs on both their CD's are good. I learned a good lesson: you should always go with your dad's opinion when picking up a classic rock CD.

Although rap has taken over as the dominant music genre today, classic rock still lives on. The rock bands today are nothing like the rock bands of the 60's and 70's, but there are still a few bands that I enjoy. Although Coheed and Cambria is nothing like, say, Led Zeppelin, they have introduced a new type of rock: emo-core, which is emotional music blended with hardcore rock music. Just as classic rock and roll is popular now, I predict that emo-core will be popular twenty years from now. My parents had never heard of Coheed and Cambria, so I introduced them to this band and returned the favor.

So, when you feel an argument coming up with your mom and dad, bring up rock and roll. That is something you can agree on.

Rock and roll is here to stay, and that is a good thing.

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Cartoonist: Caldwell Tanner